

FOREWORD BY STÉPHANE BERN



# THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES OF FRANCE®

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Flammarion



## Hunawihr

### The colors of the vines

Situated on the Alsace wine route amid the vineyards, Hunawihr is a typical Alsatian village, bedecked with flowers. Hunawihr owes its name to a laundry-woman, Saint Huna; according to legend, she lived here in the 7th century with her husband, the Frankish lord Hunon. The church, dating from the 15th-16th centuries, contains 15th-century frescoes that recount the life of Saint Nicholas. Surrounded by a cemetery fortified by six bastions, it is built on the hill overlooking the village, whose attractions include the Fontaine Sainte Hune with its washhouse, the town hall (formerly the corn exchange), the Renaissance-style Maison Schickhardt, half-timbered houses, and bourgeois residences from the 16th and 19th centuries. Nature-lovers can visit the NaturOparC center for reintroducing storks and otters, and the butterfly garden, which are both magical places. Hunawihr is also famous for its marly-limestone terroir on which its vines thrive, particularly those of its *grand cru* Rosacker.



### HIGHLIGHTS

**Church** (15th and 16th centuries) and **fortified cemetery**: Saint Nicholas frescoes (15th century).

**NaturOparC, Centre de Réintroduction des Cigognes et des Loutres**:

12-acre (5-ha.) wildlife park dedicated to preserving storks, otters, and other local species (03 89 73 72 62).

**Jardin des Papillons**: Several hundred exotic butterflies from Africa, Asia, and the Americas, in a luxuriant garden (03 89 73 33 33).

**Village**: Guided tour of the church and village Jul.-Aug., Wed. 6.15 p.m. at the church; Randoland, discovery trail for kids aged 4-12 (03 89 73 23 23).

**Grands Crus wine trail**: Discovery trail all year round; guided tour with a winemaker and free tasting sessions in summer (03 89 73 23 23).



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

[ribeauville-riquewihr.com](http://ribeauville-riquewihr.com)



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

#### Food and Drink

AOC Alsace wines, Crémant d'Alsace, and Alsace *grand cru* Rosacker (Gewürztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Gris) • Distilled spirits.



### EVENTS

**Jun.:** Marche Gourmand, 5-mile (8-km) walk with local produce and wine tasting.

**Aug.:** Hunafascht, Alsatian open-air evenings (1st Fri. and Sat.).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Cycle touring • Walking • Mountain biking, 1 marked trail • Chemin de Compostelle (Saint James's Way) trail.



### FURTHER AFIELD

• Alsace wine route: Ribeauvillé, Bergheim, Kintzheim (3½-8 miles/3-13 km).

• Haut-Koenigsbourg (8½ miles/14 km).

• Colmar; Sélestat (9½ miles/15 km).



### MBVF NEARBY

• Riquewihr (1 mile/2 km).  
• Eguisheim (12 miles/19 km).  
• Mittelbergheim (23 miles/37 km).



**Haut-Rhin (68)**

**Population: 587**

**Altitude: 935 ft. (285 m)**

**TOURIST INFO—PAYS DE RIBEAUILLÉ ET RIQUEWIHR**

03 89 73 23 23

[ribeauville-riquewihr.com](http://ribeauville-riquewihr.com)

[hunawihr.fr](http://hunawihr.fr)



# Hunspach

## Authentic Alsace Verte

A typical village of the northern Alsace region, Hunspach features houses with white cob walls and half-timbering that showcase the carpenter's craft. At the end of the Thirty Years War, Hunspach had been almost entirely wiped out; it owes its salvation to French refugees and, in particular, to the Swiss immigrants who were granted farmland there. With wood and clay to hand, they built black-and-white half-timbered houses, just like those back home, and the village owes its picturesque charm to these buildings. With their hipped gables and tiled canopies, they make a lovely sight lined up along the main road and around the pink sandstone bell tower of the Protestant church. The balloon-shaped windowpanes of Hunspach work like distorting mirrors, giving passersby a false reflection and preventing them from peering inside. Behind their windows, the residents can see out without ever being seen.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Fort de Schoenenbourg-Ligne Maginot:** World War II fortress built 1930–40, the most important construction on the Maginot Line in Alsace. Self-guided tours of the military blocks, command post, gallery, infantry casemates, etc. Accessible for those with reduced mobility (03 88 80 96 19).

### **Musée d'Antan and Kelsch'Idée boutique:**

History of the village and bygone rural life, presented in a converted barn (06 67 36 25 29).

**Village:** Guided tour in English, French, German, Spanish, and Russian, all year round (03 88 80 89 70); self-guided tour around the historic site (map available from tourist info center).



## ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

### **Guesthouses and Gîtes**

♥ Maison Ungerer  
(03 88 80 59 39).



## LOCAL SPECIALTIES

### **Food and Drink**

Wine • *Dickuechen* (brioche) • *Fleischnacka* (meat and pasta roulade) • Cheeses.

### **Art and Crafts**

Painter • Alsatian objects • Kelsch fabric household linen.



## EVENTS

**Jun.:** Fête du Folklore (last weekend in spring).

**Jul.–Aug.:** Folklore and summer activities.

**Dec.:** Christmas country market (2nd Sun. of Advent).



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Walking: Trail around village • Horse-drawn carriage rides.



## FURTHER AFIELD

- Northern Vosges Regional Nature Park.
- Picturesque village route: Seebach, Hoffen, Hohwiller, Kuhlendorf, Steinseltz, Cleebourg (2–6 miles/3–10 km).
- Alsace wine route: Steinseltz, Oberhoffen-lès-Wissembourg, Riedseltz, Rott-Cleebourg, Wissembourg (4½–6 miles/7–10 km).
- Pottery-making villages: Betschdorf, Soufflenheim (5–11 miles/8–18 km).
- Germany: Palatinate region, Black Forest (6–25 miles/10–40 km).



**Bas-Rhin (67)**  
**Population: 637**  
**Altitude: 525 ft. (160 m)**

## TOURIST INFO—ALSACE VERTE

03 88 80 89 70  
alsace-verte.com





## Montbrun-les-Bains

### Thermal treatments at the gateway to Provence

At Montbrun, situated between the Lure and Ventoux mountains, the region of Drôme takes on Provençal features, with lavender, linden trees, and aromatic plants. Tiered on the steep sides of a hill, the high façades of Montbrun are pierced with windows like arrow slits. They stand as the last line of defense protecting the imposing remains of a historic medieval castle. Rebuilt during the Renaissance, the castle was looted during the French Revolution. From the Place de l'Horloge and its belfry as far as the Sainte-Marie gate, narrow cobblestone alleyways lead from fountain to fountain, and to the 12th-century church, which houses a splendid Baroque altarpiece and several paintings, including *Coronation of the Virgin* by Pierre Parrocel. At the foot of the village, thermal baths in a modern building benefit from a spring that the Romans used; the waters help respiratory and rheumatic ailments, and improve fitness.



### HIGHLIGHTS

**Church** (12th century): Baroque altarpiece, painting by Pierre Parrocel.

**Thermes de Montbrun-les-Bains:** Thermal spa, activities, thermal and beauty treatments (04 75 28 80 75).

**Village:** Guided tour Tues. 3 p.m. Apr.–Oct. (5 p.m. Jul.–Aug.) by appt.; guided evening tour by torchlight Mon. 9:30 p.m. in Jul.–Aug. (04 75 28 82 49).



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

baronnies-tourisme.com



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

#### Food and Drink

Goat cheese • Honey, herbs, and spices • Einkorn wheat • Organic produce.

#### Art and Crafts

Pottery • Perfumes and aromatic plants.



### EVENTS

**Market:** Sat. 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Place de la Mairie; farmers' market Mon. 4–7 p.m. (Apr.–Oct.); summer market 5–8 p.m. (Jul.–Aug.).  
**Sept.:** Journée Bien-être au Naturel, plant and wellbeing fair (1st Sun.); local saint's day and fireworks (2nd Sat.).  
**Oct.:** Fête de la Courge, pumpkin and squash festival (mid-Oct.).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Canyoning • Rock climbing • Via Ferrata • Horseback riding • Walking: GR route and 24 marked trails • Cycling • Mountain biking.



### FURTHER AFIELD

- Sault (7½ miles/12 km).
- Buis-les-Baronnies (16 miles/26 km).
- Nyons (18½ miles/30 km).
- Vallée du Toulourenc; Vaison-la-Romaine (20 miles/32 km).
- Mont Ventoux (23½ miles/38 km).



**Drôme (26)**  
**Population: 451**  
**Altitude: 1,969 ft. (600 m)**

**TOURIST INFO—BARONNIES EN DRÔME PROVENÇALE**  
 04 75 28 82 49  
 baronnies-tourisme.com



# Montclus

## Between river and lavender fields

Sitting at a bend in the Cèze river, clothed in vineyards and lavender, Monclus exudes all the charm of a Languedoc village. Inhabited since prehistoric times, the site attracted fishing tribes to settle before it became Castrum Montecluso in the Middle Ages, earning its name from its hilltop position at the foot of a mountain. In the 13th century, both the abbey of Mons Serratus and an imposing fortified castle were built here. A few ruins of the old troglodyte Benedictine monastery remain, as well as a vast room hewn out of the rock, while the huge square tower of the castle still casts its long shadow over the village's pink-tiled roofs. From the Place de l'Église, narrow alleys, steps, and covered passageways punctuate the village. As visitors wander past the bright stone façades of lovingly restored residences, they catch occasional glimpses of lush green gardens tumbling down to the Cèze—a haven of peace and tranquility.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Church** (19th century).

**Castle:** Main hall, Saint-Gilles spiral staircase. Open Jul.–Aug.; guided tour daily in Jul. (04 66 82 25 73).

**Village:** Guided tour in peak season (04 66 82 30 02).



## ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

provenceoccitane.com



## LOCAL SPECIALTIES

### Food and Drink

Honey • Olive oil • Lavender essence.

### Art and Crafts

Painter • Carpenter • Ironworker.



## EVENTS

**Market:** Provençal market Tues. a.m. (Jul.–Aug.).

**Aug.:** Local saint's day (1st weekend).



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Swimming • Canoeing and kayaking • Walking • Horseback riding • Mountain biking.



## FURTHER AFIELD

- Cornillon; Goudargues (6 miles/10 km).
- Bagnols-sur-Cèze: market, Pont-Saint-Esprit (15 miles/24 km).
- Grotte Chauvet 2, cave (18½ miles/30 km).
- Gorges de l'Ardèche (21 miles/34 km).



## MBVF NEARBY

- Aiguèze (9½ miles/15 km).
- La Roque-sur-Cèze (12½ miles/20 km).
- Lussan (15½ miles/25 km).



**Gard (30)**

**Population: 188**

**Altitude: 295 ft. (90 m)**

## TOURIST INFO—PROVENCE OCCITANE

04 66 82 30 02  
provenceoccitane.com  
village-montclus.fr



OCCITANIE



## Riquewihr

### The pearl of Alsatian vineyards

Producing wines that, for centuries, have matched the quality of its architecture, Riquewihr remains one of the finest examples of Alsatian heritage and lifestyle. Riquewihr is situated behind ramparts that are now besieged only by vines aligned in tight rows. Long linked to the duchy of Wurtemberg and given town status in 1291, it is today associated with excellence: that of the architecture of its residences, with their splendid inner courtyards, and of its powerfully aromatic wines, produced on the Sporen and Schoenenbourg hillsides. Walking along the narrow streets, the visitor never tires of admiring the large houses, which—from the richer bourgeois residences of the 15th and 16th centuries to more modest dwellings—are masterpieces of colorful half-timbered façades, flowerdecked balconies, decorated windowpanes, and “beaver-tail”-tiled roofs. Some of the old store signages are the work of Jean-Jacques Waltz (1873-1951), known as “Hansi”: an Alsatian illustrator and caricaturist to whom the village has dedicated a museum.



### HIGHLIGHTS

**Musée du Dolder:** History of the fortified medieval town from the 12th to the 17th centuries (03 89 58 44 08).

**Tour des Voleurs and Maison de Vigneron:** Former prison and its instruments of torture; interior of a 16th-century winegrower's house (03 89 58 44 08).

**Grands crus wine trail:** Self-guided visit all year round; guided tour with a winemaker, visit to the wine cellar, tastings in summer (03 89 73 23 23).

**Signposted nature trail in Riquewihr Forest** (03 89 73 23 23).

**Village:** Guided tour Mon. 4.30 p.m. in Jul.–Aug., followed by a drink; recreational walk for kids aged 4–12 (03 89 73 23 23); tour of the village and vineyard by tourist train (03 89 73 74 24).



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

[riqueville-riquewihr.com](http://riqueville-riquewihr.com)



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

#### Food and Drink

AOC Alsace and *grands crus* Schoenenbourg and Sporen wines • Beer and distilled spirits • Alsatian cookies • Honey • *La Riquewihrienne* (green sauerkraut).

#### Art and Crafts

Interior decoration • Art galleries.



### EVENTS

**Market:** Fri. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Place Fernand Zeyer.

**Jun.:** International male choir festival (late Jun.).

**Jul.–Aug.:** Farmers' market (Tues. evening); winegrowers' open-air bar (Wed.–Sun.).

**Dec.:** Christmas market (daily).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Fishing • Walking: Route GR 5 and marked trails • Mountain biking.



### FURTHER AFIELD

- Ribeauvillé (4½ miles/7 km).
- Kaysersberg (6 miles/10 km).
- Colmar (7½ miles/12 km).
- Haut-Koenigsbourg (15½ miles/25 km).



### MBVF NEARBY

- Hunawihr (2 miles/3 km).
- Bergheim (5 miles/8 km).
- Eguisheim (10 miles/16 km).



**Haut-Rhin (68)**

**Population: 1,008**

**Altitude: 728 ft. (222 m)**

**TOURIST INFO—PAYS DE RIBEAUVILLÉ ET RIQUEWIHR**

03 89 73 23 23

[riqueville-riquewihr.com](http://riqueville-riquewihr.com)  
[riquewihr.fr](http://riquewihr.fr)





## Rocamadour

### A clifftop village on the road to Compostela

Built into the side of a cliff and nestled on a steep slope, Rocamadour overlooks the Alzou canyon and the Causse de Gramat. Dominated by the citadel and its ramparts, this internationally renowned medieval village and major pilgrimage site has been attracting worshippers and visitors for centuries. It was founded in the 9th century when a hermit named Saint Amadour settled in Quercy to engage in private prayer. Within the town's sanctuary, in one of seven chapels built around a parvis, stands a Black Madonna believed to induce miracles. Rocamadour has preserved its fortified gates and medieval layout featuring stone houses, churches, a defensive castle, and food-providing hamlets. In the Grotte des Merveilles, visitors can admire cave paintings and unusual rock formations. The village also shares its name with the famous goat cheese produced in the region—le Rocamadour.



#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Sanctuaire Notre-Dame de Rocamadour** (12th century): 7 chapels; relic of Notre-Dame de Rocamadour; Basilique Saint-Sauveur; Saint-Amadour crypt (05 65 14 10 59).

**Rocamadour ramparts** (14th century): Panorama (admission fee).

**Grotte des Merveilles:** Prehistoric cave paintings dating back more than 20,000 years (05 65 33 67 92).

**La Maison des Abeilles:** Multimedia museum on bees (05 65 33 66 98).

**Écoparc du Rocher des Aigles:** Bird park featuring vultures, falcons, and parrots (05 65 33 65 45).

**La Forêt des Singes:** Wildlife park dedicated to safeguarding Barbary macaques (05 65 33 62 72).

**Parc Durandal:** Equestrian shows and medieval tournaments (06 19 39 18 00).

**Village:** Self-guided tour with illustrated booklet; guided tours (05 65 33 22 03); daytime and nighttime tours of the village by tourist train (05 65 33 65 99).



#### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

vallee-dordogne.com



#### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

**Food and Drink**  
AOP Rocamadour goat cheese (farm tours) • Foie gras • Truffles • Walnuts • Quercynois cookies • Amadour wine.

#### Art and Crafts

Bladesmith • Quercy lavender distillery (farm tours) • Soap making.



#### EVENTS

**May:** Cheese festival (Pentecost Sun.).

**Aug.:** Sacred music festival (15th–26th).

**Sept.:** La Truffière aux Livres, book fair (1st Sun.); Les Montgolfiades, hot-air balloon festival (4th weekend).



#### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Walking: Routes GR 6, GR 46, GR 64, and GR 652; Chemin de Compostelle (Saint James's Way) • Mountain biking • Hot-air balloon flights.



#### FURTHER AFIELD

- Couzou (4½ miles/7 km).
- Gramat (9½ miles/15 km).
- Gouffre de Padirac (11 miles/18 km).



#### MBVF NEARBY

- Martel; Carennac (13 miles/21 km).
- Loubressac (15½ miles/25 km).



Lot (46)  
Population: 617  
Altitude: 915 ft. (279 m)

**TOURIST INFO—VALLÉE DE LA DORDOGNE**  
05 65 33 22 00  
vallee-dordogne.com



## Rodemack

### The little Carcassonne of Lorraine

Located near the borders of Luxembourg and Germany, Rodemack owes its nickname, “the little Carcassonne of Lorraine,” to its impressive medieval heritage. In 907, Rodemack passed into the hands of the Abbot of Echternach and was influenced by German-Luxembourgish culture. A fief of the Luxembourg dynasty, the village existed in relative peace and experienced five centuries of prosperity. Arnould I, the first lord of Rodemack, built a castle on a spur overlooking the town. The edifice was modified over the centuries until it reached its current form. The village grew up around the 10th-century church, and fortifications were built in the 13th to 15th centuries. In 1815, during Napoleon’s Hundred Days, Rodemack was defended by General Hugo, father of the poet Victor Hugo. A walk along the Ruelle de la Forge, Rue du Four, and Place de Gargants gives visitors the opportunity to discover its defensive walls and towers. The village itself is surrounded by a second wall with demi-lune (half-moon) towers and a gateway flanked by round towers.



### HIGHLIGHTS

**Village:** Guided group tour all year round, by appt. (03 82 56 00 02).

**Citadelle à Rodemack:** Park open daily 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m., May–Sept.

**Jardin Médiéval** (medieval garden): Open all year round.



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

[mairie-rodemack.fr](http://mairie-rodemack.fr)



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

#### Food and Drink

Artisan beers and lemonade • Honey • Organic vegetables • Apple juice • Farm produce.



### EVENTS

**Market:** Le Noyer, large organic vegetable market, Sat. 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Route de Faulbach, and Wed. 5–8 p.m., ramparts car park. Sun.: free market 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Mar.–Apr.:** Most Beautiful Villages of France wine market.

**May:** Flower and garden decoration market (1st Sun.).

**Jun.:** Rodemack Solex (bike) Tour (mid-Jun.); Rodemack, Cité Médiévale en Fête (late Jun.).

**Sept.:** Flea market and rummage sale (1st Sun.).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Walking • Mountain biking.



### FURTHER AFIELD

- Basse Rentgen: Château de Preisch (3 miles/5 km).
- Hettange-Grande: Nature reserve and Maginot Line fortification (6 miles/10 km).
- Sierck-les-Bains: Château des Ducs de Lorraine; Manderen: Château de Malbrouk (7½–12 miles/12–19 km).
- Schengen: Musée de l’Europe (10 miles/16 km).
- Thionville (11 miles/18 km).



**Moselle (57)**  
Population: 1,379  
Altitude: 594 ft. (181 m)

### TOURIST INFO—CATTENOM ET ENVIRONS

03 82 56 00 02  
[tourisme-ccce.fr](http://tourisme-ccce.fr)  
[mairie-rodemack.fr](http://mairie-rodemack.fr)





## La Romieu

### At the crossing of the ways

Amid the simplicity and charm of the Gascon countryside, La Romieu with its collegiate church is a stopping place at the intersection of paths leading from Puy and Rocamadour to Santiago de Compostela. Taking its name from the Gascon word *roumiou*, meaning “pilgrimage,” the village was founded in the late 11th century by Albert, a German monk returning from a pilgrimage to Rome. The area gained greater importance in the 14th century when the powerful Cardinal Arnaud d’Aux, cousin of Pope Clement V and a native of the village, established the collegiate church of Saint-Pierre here. This building, which has been on the UNESCO World Heritage list since 1998, survived the agonies of the Wars of Religion and the French Revolution, and today provides visitors with a remarkable example of Southern Gothic architecture. At its feet, the village blends in seamlessly. The arcaded village square and the houses with their bright stone façades typical of the region create a unified and graceful ensemble around the religious site.



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Collégiale Saint-Pierre

(14th century): Church, cloisters, octagonal tower, sacristy with polychrome frescoes, bell tower. Self-guided and guided tours all year; combined ticket with Les Jardins de Coursiana (05 62 28 86 33).

#### Les Jardins de Coursiana:

15-acre (6-ha) English landscape garden, arboretum, kitchen garden, orchard, etc., classed as “remarkable” by the Ministry of Culture. Open Apr.–Oct. (05 62 68 22 80).

#### ♥ Gers Astronomie:

Astronomical observatory (06 45 49 43 75).

#### ♥ On Va Vers le Beau: Café,

bookshop, and coworking spaces (06 77 18 25 04).



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

#### Campsites

♥ Le Camp de Florence\*\*\*\* (05 62 28 15 58).

#### Guesthouses

♥ La Maison d’Aux (05 62 28 14 89).



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

#### Food and Drink

Honey • Prunes • Apples • Strawberries • Melons • Garlic • Asparagus • Côtes de Gascogne wines.

#### Art and Crafts

Art galleries and artists’ studios.



### EVENTS

**Market:** local farmers’ market Mon. a.m., Place Bouet (Jul.–Aug.).

**May:** Rose market (Sun. after 20th).

**Jun.:** L’Art au Mieux, art festival (mid-Jun.)

**Jul.:** Musique en Chemin, music festival (20th–23rd).

**Sept.:** Potters’ market (2nd Sun.).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Walking: Routes GR 65, GR 652, and marked PR trails • Mountain biking: Marked trails • Spelunking: Karst trail.



### FURTHER AFIELD

• Condom: Cathedral; Cassaigne: Castle; Valence-sur-Baïse: Flaran Cistercian abbey (7–12½ miles/11–20 km).



### MBVF NEARBY

• Larressingle (10½ miles/17 km).  
• Fourcès (15½ miles/25 km).  
• Montréal (16 miles/26 km).



#### Gers (32)

**Population:** 573

**Altitude:** 614 ft. (187 m)

#### TOURIST INFO—GASCOGNE-LOMAGNE

05 62 64 00 00

gascogne-lomagne.fr

#### TOWN HALL

05 62 28 15 72

la-romieu.fr



## La Roque-Gageac

### Sheltered by a cliff

Surrounded by ancient mansions and crowned by cliffs, the village of La Roque-Gageac is reflected in the waters of the Dordogne river. An important stronghold in the Middle Ages, the village gained its fine residences, including that of humanist Jean Tarde (1561-1636), during the Renaissance. In the 19th century, it saw heavy traffic of *gabares* (flat-bottomed boats) on the Dordogne river that transported wines from Domme to Bordeaux. Sheltered by the south-facing cliffs, and overlooked by the 16th-century church, Mediterranean and tropical plants flourish along the village's streets and in its gardens. The yellow-stone façades and pitched roofs covered with brown tiles contrast with their green setting. The beauty and character of the houses of La Roque-Gageac can also be admired from a boat on the Dordogne.



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Jardin Exotique:

Mediterranean and tropical plant garden. Free self-guided visit (05 53 29 40 29).

**Bambousaie:** Self-guided tour to discover different varieties of bamboo.

Open 11:45 a.m.–7 p.m.  
(07 81 69 00 56).

#### Jardin de la Ferme Fleurie:

Terraced gardens (romantic garden, grandmother's garden, wild garden, medicinal-herb garden; 05 53 28 33 39).

**Village:** Guided tour Jun.–Sept. (05 53 31 45 45).

#### Fort de la Roque-Gageac:

Large ruined fortress with a panoramic view  
(05 53 31 04 08).



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

sarlat-tourisme.com



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

#### Food and Drink

Foie gras • Périgord specialties.

### Art and Crafts

Watercolorist • Painter-interior decorator.



### EVENTS

**Market:** Fri. 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Aug.:** Village festival (early Aug.); gourmet food market (Mon. after 20th).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Swimming (no lifeguard) in the Dordogne • *Gabare* (traditional flat-bottomed boat) trips • Canoeing and kayaking • Fishing • Walking • Mountain biking • Cycling.



### FURTHER AFIELD

- Marquessac: Park and gardens (2½ miles/4 km).
- Sarlat (8 miles/13 km).
- Vallée de la Vézère (15½ miles/25 km).



### MBVF NEARBY

- Castelnau-la-Chapelle (2 miles/3.5 km).
- Beynac-et-Cazenac (3 miles/5 km).
- Domme (3½ miles/6 km).
- Belvès (14½ miles/23 km).



**Dordogne (24)**  
**Population: 430**  
**Altitude: 430 ft. (131 m)**

### TOURIST INFO—SARLAT PÉRIGORD NOIR

05 53 31 45 45  
sarlat-tourisme.com



# La Roque-sur-Cèze

## Stone, vines, and water

Between Cévennes and Provence, surrounded by garigue (scrubland), La Roque-sur-Cèze has established itself on a rocky slope overlooking the Cèze river and the vineyards. Past the Pont Charles-Martel with its twelve arches, along steep, winding, cobbled streets, lies an endless jumble of buildings, rooftops, and covered terraces, whose sun-weathered stone walls and Genoese tiles give them a Tuscan feel. When visitors reach the summit of the village—after a little physical exertion—the ruins of the 12th-century castle and its Romanesque chapel are reminders of the strategic position that the site occupied in the Middle Ages on the Roman road leading from Nîmes to Alba. In sharp contrast to the serenity and aridity of the village are the waterfalls, rapids, and crevices of the Cascades du Sautadet, including the magnificent “giants’ cauldrons”—cylindrical cavities carved out by the Cèze—which require caution but offer a refreshing place to relax in the wilderness.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Village:** Historical trail; guided tour by appt. (04 66 82 30 02).

**Church** (19th century): Restored in 2013, contemporary stained-glass windows.

**Chapelle du Presbytères:** Exhibitions.

**Les Cascades du Sautadet:** Waterfalls.



## ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

[provenceoccitane.com](http://provenceoccitane.com)



## LOCAL SPECIALTIES

**Food and Drink**  
AOC Côtes du Rhône wines.

**Art and Crafts**  
Handcrafted santons and nativity figures and scenes.



## EVENTS

**Aug.:** Jam fair (weekend of 15th).



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Walking • Mountain biking • Swimming • Canoeing and kayaking • Fishing.



## FURTHER AFIELD

- Cornillon; Goudargues (5 miles/8 km).
- Bagnols-sur-Cèze: Market (7½ miles/12 km).
- Gorges de la Cèze (9½ miles/15 km).



## MBVF NEARBY

- Montclus (9½ miles/15 km).
- Aiguèze (11 miles/18 km).



OCCITANIE



**Gard (30)**  
**Population: 177**  
**Altitude: 295 ft. (90 m)**

## TOURIST INFO—PROVENCE OCCITANE

04 66 82 30 02  
[provenceoccitane.com](http://provenceoccitane.com)  
[laroquesurceze.fr](http://laroquesurceze.fr)





## Saint-Suliac

### Between land and sea

With a panoramic view over the Rance estuary, Saint-Suliac is set in a beautifully unspoilt landscape. The impressive steeple of the Église de Saint-Suliac rises loftily above an old cemetery that represents a unique kind of churchyard in Haute Bretagne. The church stands in the center of a maze of narrow alleyways lined with fishermen's houses and low granite garden walls. Paths from the village lead to a variety of delightful attractions: the tide mill; the old salt marshes at Guettes, created in 1736; the standing stone of Chablé, dubbed the "Dent de Gargantua" (Gargantua's Tooth), and the intriguing remains of a Viking camp. The port, bustling with both fishing and pleasure boats, evokes Saint-Suliac's rich maritime history. This was a population of sailors, and the Vierge de Grainfollet (patron saint of Newfoundland), sitting above the village, bears witness to the heavy price that these coastal folk paid the sea in order to support their families.



### HIGHLIGHTS

**Church** (13th century): Stained-glass windows, wood carving, sailors' shrine.

**La Maison des Collections:** Museum on the history and traditional life of Bretons and fishermen (06 12 24 10 80).

**Village:** Guided tour in Jun.–Sept. (06 70 25 18 61).

**Belvédère de l'Oratoire de la Vierge de Grainfollet:**

Panoramic viewpoint (village and Rance), accessible by coastal path (at low tide).



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

[saint-malo-tourisme.com](http://saint-malo-tourisme.com)



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

#### Food and Drink

Cider • Buckwheat galettes (pancakes) • Fish and shellfish • Cream and yogurt.

#### Art and Crafts

Watercolorist • Art gallery • Publisher • Dressmaking

workshop • Antique marine objects.



### EVENTS

**Market:** Tues. 4–8 p.m., mid-Jun.–mid-Sept., Quai de Rance.

**Aug.:** Saint-Suliac Autrefois, historical event (1st weekend); Pardon de la Mer ceremony at Notre-Dame-de-Grainfollet (15th).

**Sept.:** Copeaux d'Abord, sea festival (last weekend).

**Dec.:** Christmas market and living Nativity scene (1st and 2nd weekends).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Swimming • Fishing • Sailing • Horseback riding • Walking: Routes GR 34, GRP Tour du Pays Malouin, and 3 marked trails • Mountain biking.



### FURTHER AFIELD

- Saint-Malo (6 miles/10 km).
- Cancale (11 miles/18 km).
- Mont-Dol (12 miles/19 km).
- Dinan (13½ miles/22 km).
- Mont-Saint-Michel (18½ miles/30 km).



**Ille-et-Vilaine (35)**  
**Population: 961**  
**Altitude: 69 ft. (21 m)**

**TOURIST INFO—**  
**DESTINATION SAINT-MALO**  
**BAIE DU MONT SAINT-MICHEL**  
02 99 56 66 99  
[saint-malo-tourisme.com](http://saint-malo-tourisme.com)  
[saint-suliac.fr](http://saint-suliac.fr)



## Saint-Véran

### “Where hens peck at the stars”

The highest inhabited village in Europe—hence its motto—Saint-Véran lies at the heart of the Queyras regional nature park. As Saint-Véran has been accessible by road for little more than a century, the inhabitants had plenty of time to learn to pull together in this extreme environment (altitude of 6,699 ft./2,042 m). They battled floods, avalanches, and fires, and worked shale and larch in the Queyras to build the *fustes* and *casets* for sheltering animal fodder and livestock under protruding roofs. They also smelted copper, carved wood, tapped the water from the hillsides for their fountains, and harnessed the sun’s rays for their brightly colored sundials. Moreover, they devised both winter and summer tourism, which capitalizes on the great outdoors while respecting their traditions. The mission crosses, erected in tribute to missionaries who came to convert this Queyras backwater, symbolize the area’s fervent religious belief and practice, and form part of its heritage.



### HIGHLIGHTS

**Church** (17th century): Stone lions, font.

**Copper mine:** Discovery tour of the site and exhibition at the old communal oven at Les Forannes.

**Maison Traditionnelle:** Traditional house inhabited and shared with animals until 1976; furniture, tools, etc. (04 92 45 82 39).

**Musée Le Soum:** The oldest house in the village (1641) (04 92 45 86 42).

**Maison du Soleil et de l’Astronomie:** Complex dedicated to solar observation, interactive experiences, themed visits, educational workshops (04 92 23 58 21 / saintveran-maisondusoleil.com).

**Observatory** (9,633 ft./2,936 m altitude): Tour of the dome and its equipment, discovery evenings by appt. (saintveran-maisondusoleil.com).

**Village:** Guided tour (registration at tourist info center or online); guided group tour by appt. (04 92 45 82 21).



### ACCOMMODATION & EATING OUT

#### Hotels

♥ Les Chalets du Villard\*\*\* (04 92 45 52 08).



### LOCAL SPECIALTIES

**Food and Drink**  
Queyras honey.

#### Art and Crafts

Craft courses (plant collecting, lacemaking, weaving, knitting) • Bladesmith • Wood sculptors.



### EVENTS

**Jul.:** Grand Raid du Queyras, trail running (2nd weekend); Franco-Italian pilgrimage to Clausis chapel (16th).

**Jul.-Aug.:** Sale of bread baked at the communal oven; star-gazing excursions.

**Aug.:** Trail des Étoiles, trail running (2nd weekend).



### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Astronomy • Rock climbing • Forest adventure course • Fishing • Walking, horseback riding, and hikes with donkey • Skiing: Alpine, cross-country, ski touring, snowshoeing • Mountain biking.



### FURTHER AFIELD

- Molines-en-Queyras (3 miles/5 km).
- Château-Queyras (8½ miles/14 km).
- Aiguilles; Abriès (10–13 miles/16–21 km).
- Col d’Agnel and the Italian border (12½ miles/20 km).
- Guillestre; Mont-Dauphin (23½ miles/38 km).



Hautes-Alpes (05)  
Population: 180  
Altitude: 6,699 ft. (2,042 m)

**TOURIST INFO—GUILLESTROIS ET DU QUEYRAS**  
04 92 45 82 21  
lequeyras.com  
saintveran.com

